

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

I am Paul Watts and am the president of AlaNet Internet Services, Inc., in Dothan, AL. In March of 1995 we became the first company to offer Internet access to business and residential customers via a local phone call in southeast Alabama.

We offer a variety of Internet access services including broadband Internet access services which are not offered by our local phone company, Verizon. In addition to providing fee-based services, we provide free Internet services to various community and church organizations.

We offer these services using the facilities of the incumbent local phone company and using the facilities of local competitive phone companies. These facilities include DSL, T1 and DS3 local loops. Without access to these facilities, our company would not be able to offer the broadband Internet access services that are increasingly required by our customers.

Unfortunately, Verizon has chosen not to offer DSL services in most of its wire centers. As a result, AlaNet Internet Services, Inc. is working with a local CLEC to deploy DSL services more broadly. Those effort will be in vain if the FCC allows the ILECs to limit the availability of the facilities required to offer these broadband services. If that happens, many in our community will not have any access to broadband Internet services.

Please work to expand competitive choices for all consumers and increase the competitive requirements that are placed on the ILECs such as Verizon. Do not reduce them. Talk of reducing the competitive rules for monopolies like Verizon is works against competition.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Paul Watts  
3246 Montgomery Highway, Suite 114  
Dothan, AL 36303